GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3985
ANSWERED ON:03.05.2007
REPLACEMENT OF BRIDGE AT YAMUNA
Singh Shri Kirti Vardhan

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways plan to construct a replacement bridge on the existing one on Yamuna;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this replacement is likely to go through the Salimgarh fort, a part of Red Fort;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the ASI has pointed to the Railways the danger of damaging the structures in the fort and possibilities of loosing the world heritage status; and

(f) if so, the action proposed to be taken bearing the world heritage status in mind?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU)

(a) to (b): Yes Sir. A work for construction of a new bridge on replacement account over river Yamuna in Delhi- Shahadara- Ghaziabad section of Northern Railway, was sanctioned in the year 1997-98. The new bridge is being constructed at a distance of 30 metres towards north of existing bridge.

(c) to (d): The track on west end approach of the new bridge passes through the corner of the land of Swatantrata Sainani Smarak (Salimgarh Fort). However, it does not pass through Red Fort. The track is crossing Salimgarh Fort wall. As the new bridge is being constructed 30 meters away from the existing bridge, the track alignment on the approaches is also to be diverted. This leads to change in the location where track is crossing the Fort wall (near top of the wall). About 1000 sqm of the corner area of the land will be required for diverting the alignment.

(e) Yes Sir. In a meeting held with Hon'ble Minister for Tourism & Culture on March, 26, 2004, Hon'ble Minister after considering the inescapability in public interest had agreed for exchange of 1000sqm of ASI land as per the proposed alignment. However, ASI in their letter dated 19.5.06 have raised objections particularly in view of a new opening to be made near the top of the Fort wall for passing the tracks. No issue of loosing World heritage status, if any, has been raised.

(f) The issue has been taken up at the level of Ministry of Culture to find a solution in view of the importance of construction of the new bridge. A final decision will be taken up after necessary consultation with Ministry of Culture.